



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland

Forest Service News Release

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Pole Mountain prescribed burning set to resume in the coming weeks

LARAMIE, Wyo., October 8, 2021 — In the coming weeks, USDA Forest Service fire staff will look for windows of opportunity to conduct a cumulative 1,000 acres of prescribed burns on the Pole Mountain unit of the Medicine Bow National Forest. Daily decisions to burn will be dependent on fuel and weather condition alignment.

If conditions are favorable, burning could take place at multiple locations this fall. For the most up-to-date information pertaining to exact dates, times and locations, follow the Medicine Bow National Forest official social media pages: [@FS_MBRTB](#) on Twitter or [@FSMBRTB](#) on Facebook.

Smoke from the burns will likely be visible to the public from Interstate 80, Happy Jack Highway (WY Highway 210), and nearby forest roads. Signs will be placed on adjacent Forest Roads notifying the public of the burns as necessary. Fire staff from the Forest Service will continue to monitor the burned areas following the operations.

Staff will primarily use drip torches to carry out the burning. For safety and effectiveness, operations will not be initialized if weather conditions are unfavorable. Necessary smoke permits will be obtained from the State of Wyoming and adhered to throughout the project.

Prescribed burning is a versatile forest management tool that can mimic historically natural fire disturbances, reduce hazardous fuels buildup, and improve habitat for a variety of wildlife. Minimal and managed smoke from prescribed fires now helps prevent the potential for more unpredictable and hazardous wildfire smoke in the future.

The work is part of the ongoing Pole Mountain Vegetation Project in eastern Albany County that began in 2014. Nearly 9,000 acres were authorized to be treated over a period of approximately 10 years, with the goal being the return to a resilient, diverse, and historically healthy forest. At this time, Firefighters are primarily targeting the understory in stands of large ponderosa pine, as well as juniper patches and deteriorating aspen stands.

For more information about this project contact Jerod DeLay, Acting Zone Fire Management Officer, at (307) 745-2497 or Blake Creagan, Acting Zone Assistant Fire Management Officer - Operations, at (307) 250-8687. More information can also be found on our [website](#) or social media channels: [@FS_MBRTB](#) on Twitter or [@FSMBRTB](#) on Facebook.

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